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1) Upcoming Events and Deadlines

See <http://www.muohio.edu/international/events.php> for more information on upcoming events and deadlines, including times, locations and links for more information. If you plan on studying abroad in spring 2008, CHECK NOW to see what your program's application deadline is. We only list here application deadlines that have changed, or internal deadlines for this campus.

- October 1 – Application deadline for 2009-2010 Fulbright grants
- **October 7 – Study Abroad Fair**
- October 7 – Application deadline for spring 2009 Gilman International Scholarship
- October 8 – Royal Holloway information session
- October 9 – Application deadline for FSB summer programs
- October 15 – Application deadline for November on-campus Peace Corps interviews
- October 15 – Application deadline for spring 2009 Freeman-Asia Scholarship
- October 15 – Extended application deadline for winter 2009 CIEE programs at SOAS and UCL
- October 15 – Extended application deadline for many spring 2009 ISA programs in Spain, Belgium, England and Italy, as well as the Multi-Country Latin America program.
- October 20 – Application deadline for spring 2009 OIE-administered scholarships

Remember that our Study Abroad 101 sessions are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays – see the events page of our website for specific dates and times.

2) Program Updates

- Beginning with spring 2009, CIEE will move to a competitive review of applications (rather than rolling admissions) for a few very popular programs: Cape Town Arts & Sciences, Prague Central European Studies, Amman Language and Culture and Dakar Language and Culture. It's still a good idea to apply early for these programs!
- Starting in spring 2009, IFSA-Butler will no longer offer study at Middlesex University or University of Warwick. Students who were planning on studying at those universities should either contact an IFSA-Butler advisor to find another suitable university or work with Miami's study abroad office to find another provider who will offer access to that university.
- IFSA-Butler also has two new programs for students with intermediate Spanish skills (2-3 semesters) in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Heredia, Costa Rica.

3) Study Abroad Fair - October 7

Mark your calendars! Miami's annual **Study Abroad Fair** will be held **Tuesday, October 7** in the Shriver Center Multipurpose Room from 2-6 pm. You can stop by any time during the fair hours to meet with representatives of different study abroad offices and programs, collect information about different study abroad opportunities and ask questions of program representatives or returned students. This is the biggest study abroad event of the year and a great low-pressure way to get started on planning your study abroad experience! You can RSVP on Facebook to help us spread the word to your friends and your friends' friends: <http://www.new.facebook.com/event.php?eid=26429418109>

4) Miami University Study Abroad... Online

I hope by now you've all seen our website at <http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/studyabroad.php>. That's still the best place to go for the most complete study abroad information here at Miami University. But you can also get study abroad information elsewhere on the web!

The Office of International Education is now hosting a Facebook Page. You can become a fan of Miami University Study Abroad, RSVP for our Study Abroad 101 information sessions, talk to students who are going abroad with you and contact students who have been abroad to ask them questions. Check it out at <http://www.new.facebook.com/pages/Oxford-OH/Miami-University-Study-Abroad/26042947210>.

We are also on Twitter! You can follow us at <http://twitter.com/miamiabroad> for short updates in between newsletters. And speaking of newsletters, did you know that you can subscribe to this newsletter through RSS if you prefer that to email? Check out our feed at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/StudyAbroadNewsletter>.

5) Getting the Most for Your Study Abroad Money

Is study abroad affordable? Well, your choice of study abroad program can be very important when it comes to affordability. One thing to consider is program length – you get a lot more “bang for your buck” when you study abroad for a semester rather than for a summer. Another thing to consider is scholarship applicability – if you have Miami scholarships, it’s in your best interest to choose a program where those will apply. Another important thing to consider is location: choosing a country and a city that will be affordable.

Europe is very appealing because it’s the traditional study abroad destination, and the cultures there are (correctly or otherwise) usually considered to be closest to our own. However, one thing that is increasingly important to consider is the cost of studying abroad. On the advice of people who backpacked through Europe 30 years ago, most people think that if they go to Europe, it will be cheap to travel. But if you look at the current exchange rates for Europe you will probably be amazed at how expensive it really is. London, for example, is an extremely popular destination, but it’s also worth considering that it’s one of the most expensive cities *in the world* to live in.

It’s definitely worth at least thinking about studying in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the Middle East. You can have rich experiences and maybe come back a little richer financially, too.

In whatever country you choose to study abroad, there are ways to make your experience more cost-effective. For example, if you want to go to the UK, it’s less expensive to live in Brighton or Norwich or Belfast, where things are cheaper than in London. As a general rule, capital cities will always have a higher cost of living than the countryside, or even other large cities. So think about studying in a secondary or tertiary city, like Nanjing, China, Mendoza, Argentina or Grenoble, France. (Nanjing is only the 17th most populous city in China, but still has more inhabitants than Los Angeles!)

What will \$1 get you around the world?

- £ .49 – England, Scotland, Wales
- € .62 – Euro-currency nations (including France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain among others)
- Kr 4.68 – Denmark
- ¥ 6.82 – China
- \$1.02 - Australia
- R\$ 1.59 – Brazil
- R 7.64 – South Africa
- \$ 10.32 - Mexico
- Rp 43.12 - India
- £ 5.27 – Egypt
- ₩ 1006.3 – South Korea

6) Featured Study Abroad Location of the Month: China

On the outside, China looks a lot like America. Everyone wears jeans and carries cell phones. The women are all fashionistas, and anyone can witness a group of high schoolers gossiping and giggling during the lunch hour.

Sink beneath the surface, though, and you will discover a whole other China. In this China, you will meet a people that care for their family and friends like no other. You will find a loyalty, a generosity, that knows no bounds. You will unearth a society racing forward at breakneck speed, capable of gutting a store one day, entirely reconstructing it the second, and having it up and running the third.

Maybe, like me, you’ll discover that you have a secret passion for spicy Sichuanese food. Perhaps, too, you’ll find out that you have a deep love of bargaining -- this huge game that everyone knows they must play, smiling all the while. It’s highly likely that most of what you learn will not be in the classroom. But beware, fellow students: studying abroad may change you, just like it changed me.

I wish I could compress my entire study abroad experience into a series of images for you so that you would know what I think of when I hear the word "China." Here are a few of the things I see: women climbing up mountains in four-inch heels. Buses so crowded you barely have room to breathe. I see skyscrapers, apartment buildings, and big statues of Mao. I see busy markets, fruit and vegetable stands, and innumerable restaurants.

But don't take my word for it. Find out for yourself. Go.

I spent last week visiting several study abroad providers in Shanghai:

- CIEE: http://ciee.org/study/study_asia.aspx
- IES: <https://www.iesabroad.org/IES/Programs/China/Shanghai/shanghai.html>
- The Alliance for Global Education: http://www.allianceglobaled.org/programs/shanghai_china/
- Petters (The Miami Semester in China Program):
<http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/chinsemester.php>

In addition to these programs in Shanghai, there are study abroad options in Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Xi'an and more! See <http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/sa-cn.php>. If you have any questions about studying abroad in China, please make an appointment with a study abroad advisor OR ask questions of a peer advisor here: <http://www.new.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=26042947210&topic=5202>. Remember that you have many options to study Chinese language, Business, Political Science, History and other subjects, so be sure and research these programs to find the one that's best for YOUR academic, professional and personal needs!

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